

Senator Catherine Osten, Senator Paul Formica, Representative Toni Walker,

I am former student of the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven and I am writing you today to express my belief in the importance of this institution. I would ask that you not cut any funding to this amazing place.

As a teenager, I attended ECA and studied creative writing. Things I learned there set me on many successful paths. I was offered a large scholarship to a great college based on my entrance essay. I published works in a number of literary magazines and journals. I went on to get an MFA in poetry and write a book of poems (though still unpublished).

These are the kinds of things I write on resumes, but what ECA actually gave me is far more valuable than any of that. It gave me a community. It gave me a way to express myself, a place that valued ideas, a place where I could explore myself. ECA gave me coping mechanisms. ECA introduced me to all sorts of people from different walks of life. It gave me a life long love of learning, of ideas, of empathy. It's made me a better person. It's made me a better mother.

There is a story circulating the internet that when asked to cut arts funding in favor of the war effort Winston Churchill declined and said, "Then what are we fighting for?" Though this story is most likely false, the sentiment rings so true. Art is the reason.

I will leave you with what Winston Churchill actually said about the arts and hope you continue fund ECA. "The arts are essential to any complete national life. The State owes it to itself to sustain and encourage them....Ill fares the race which fails to salute the arts with the reverence and delight which are their due."

Thanks for your time,

Kate Hubbard
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